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COUNTRY China/USSR

SUBJECT 1. Lanchou-Urumchi Railway Project
2. Railway Lines to Connect USSR and
China

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PLACE
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1. The USSR and China are now fully determined to rush the construction of the Lanchou-Urumchi railway in three years if they cannot finish it in two.¹ This falls in line with the Chinese Communist government's view that political considerations transcend economic values in the construction of new railways today. Neither the USSR nor China consider business earnings to be as important as political exigencies. 25X1

2. All efforts will be made to build a trans-continental railway connecting Moscow with Peiping, Shanghai, Hankow, Canton and Chennankuan at the Indochina border. The Lanchou-Urumchi line will be linked with Semipalatinsk (80-13, 50-28) on the USSR side. At present Lanchou is already connected by rail with all parts of the country and with parts of the southwest by way of Kueilin and Liuchou to Chennankuan. 25X1

3. The trans-continental line will be built by the USSR and China jointly. The USSR will supply material and engineers and China will provide labor and local materials. 25X1A

1.

- 25X1A 2. Comment. According to the Committee of Finance and Economics of the Government Administration Council issued on 25 August 1951 the statement that the Northwest and Southwest regions must strengthen their communication and transportation service "in order to meet the requirements of strengthening our national defense and to solve the problem of transporting goods between cities and rural areas." 25X1A

- 25X1A 3. Comment. There is no information confirming the extent of rail connections completed between Lanchou and points east and south. That Lanchou is connected by rail with all parts of the country is doubtful.

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